

TARC News

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Publisher, Tom Fuller

Editor Tom Fuller



October PotLuck Meeting

We had over 30 in attendance, it was nice to see everyone there.



Part 2: Radio Selection

By Roy Merritt / N4RKM

Continuing on from my last article, in this piece I want to cover my thoughts on radio selection as based on the modes of operations I am most interested in so let's get started.

First off let me just say I am a big Icom fan. You may think differently and that's OK, but my focus is on finding an Icom radio for my solution if possible. I know other manufacturers such as Elcraft and Yaesu make great radios for QRP work, but I wanted to stay with Icom. The obvious choice for me was the Icom IC-705. Mainly because it's the only QRP radio Icom makes, but it is actually a really great, feature rich radio and ticks all the boxes for features I was looking for. So, let's take a look at what my selection criteria was that I wanted in my radio:

1. Radio should be QRP in nature. Now, having said that I also like the IC-7300 but it's just a bit larger and requires more battery power and is not QRP. But, I do have the radio and supporting power if I want to up my game while portable.
2. I wanted at a minimum, a radio that covered from 160M to 10M. What I got with the IC-705 was a radio that not only covers 160M to 10M but also covers 6m, 2M and 70Cm. Additionally it has a built in FM radio and General coverage receiver.
3. The radio needed to do the usual USB and LSB SSB along with being able to handle digital modes. The IC-705 provides all these modes plus SSB on 2mtr and 70Cm in addition to FM operations on these two bands.
4. I also wanted a radio with a built-in antenna tuner, like my IC-7300. However, this radio does not have one so I knew I would need to look for a suitable antenna tuner. OK, so this box didn't get ticked, but I knew there would be a suitable solution I could afford.
5. Finally, I needed a radio that I could easily interface my laptop to for digital working. As it turns out, there are several ways for me to connect my laptop to the radio and certainly my preferred method is via the radios' build-in WLAN interface. This is something unique at present to this radio. This allows me to have a wires free connection to the radio from my laptop which simplifies operating position set ups and eliminates RFI from my laptop entering the radio (unlike the IC-7300.)

Let me talk briefly about modes of operations that I am mainly interested in as this radio certainly ticks all the boxes for these modes, they are:

1. Voice SSB.
2. Digital:
 - a. WinLink email using the VARA modem;
 - b. VarAC. New mode of keyboard-to-keyboard digital chatting using the VARA HF modem.
 - c. FT8. I must admit I have not gotten into this mode yet, but I will.

I am not really a fan of CW and quite frankly I do not care if you are or not. It's just not a mode I am interested in so I will not spend any time discussing it here.

In my research and thinking, I had certainly considered the IC-7300 as it certainly ticks all the right boxes, but I wanted something just a little more portable. As I mentioned earlier, I am an Icom fan so to be honest I never considered looking at the Elcraft or Yaesu offerings although I am sure they have great rigs too.

I have to say, I got lucky at the W9DXCC conference and won my IC-705 and I love it. So, the rig I chose to build my little portable operating “tool kit” around is the IC-705. It ticks all my boxes with regards to size, power and modes of operations. In my next article, I will look at how I met the power requirements for portable operations.

Until next time 73. Roy/N4RKM Signing off.

[2 Meter simplex](#)

Monday 7pm

144.210

[Sky Warn Net](#)

Tuesday at 7pm

146.97

[Mosquito Net](#)

Wednesday at 7pm

28.333 USB

[Friendship Traders Net](#)

Thursday at 7pm

146.97

Paul Fee

The last six years that I've served as TARC Vice President have been rewarding, challenging, and (almost always) very fun. I want to thank each member of our club for bestowing upon me that honor and that privilege. It's the commitment and energy of the membership that makes a club successful, and I thank you for being an active and involved member and I thank you for sharing your energy and talent.

Specifically, I'd like to thank Mr. Jan Ferguson – W4REN for encouraging me to step up when the need appeared. His guidance, tutelage and friendship has been a very enriching experience for me both technically and personally. I'd also like to extend my sincere and heartfelt appreciation to Sherry Ferguson – KU4ZO for her encouragement and friendship over the years. If you've been a member of TARC for any length of time, you already know that Jan and Sherry breathed life into TARC, sustained the club over many years of ups and downs, and have been the driving force behind everything that TARC is today and continue to shape what we will be in the future. You are both held in the highest regard by each and every club member and always will be. Thank you both very much for your selfless service to TARC and to all of its members past, present and future.

I'm not asking to step back from the Vice President role for any other reason than to do what's best for TARC. My job responsibilities have changed over the last few months, and part of those responsibilities will be additional travel out of state on a regular basis, and I won't be able to attend all of the meetings and participate in all of the projects over the next 12 – 18 months. I will absolutely continue to be committed to TARC, and continue to jump in and do whatever possible, whenever possible. That is exactly what I've done since day 1, and that will not change, but there will be time constraints until such time as I am fully retired, once and for all. (Yes, that 12 – 18 months seems long now, but it'll be over before we know it!)

I also firmly believe in "term limits" in leadership, whether it's in Washington DC or in Titusville. We have many talented, committed, and capable folks within our membership, and I have no doubt that there are folks interested in stepping up to whatever challenges are presented, and I encourage any and all interested parties to rise to the occasion and run for open offices. It's a rewarding experience and I highly recommend that we encourage and develop a cadre of capable folks ready and willing to step up to whatever challenge appears. We are all enriched by the inclusion of fresh ideas, new perspectives, and different leadership visions. I stand ready to provide whatever level of support, advice, counsel, and encouragement needed to transition this TARC leadership position into new hands.

The parts of being Vice President that I've really enjoyed are the projects that we've accomplished, the field days and tailgate parties that we've held, and the camaraderie and fellowship that we've shared while supporting our ham radio hobby. Among the lessons I've learned is that personalities are all different and not everybody is going to be satisfied, no matter what you do or don't do. That's just human nature, and we can't always fix that. So, my actions and decisions have always been an answer to the question, "What's best for TARC?". I encourage all of our members to maintain that same focus now, and into the future.

I hope that I have served our organization competently and honorably as Vice President and look forward to continuing on with that same goal into the future in whatever role possible.

73 and kindest regards,

Paul Fee – N6YCC

Name Tags

Barry Kennedy
N4NMF is taking
orders for name
tags. These are
very nice and come
in several different
designs.
Contact Barry at
n4nmf@outlook.com



November Election meeting
Nov. 22, at 7pm

Christmas Party
December 15 / 2022
Dixie Crossroads
6PM
Contact Sally KN4HPX 309-314-2303
For tickets

NOVEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Sky Warn Net 7pm 146.97	2 Mosquito Net 7pm 28.333	3 Friendship Traders Net 7pm 146.97 Eating Meeting	4	5
6	7	8 Sky Warn Net 7pm 146.97	9 Mosquito Net 7pm 28.333	10 Friendship Traders Net 7pm 146.97 Eating Meeting 5pm	11	12
13	14	15 Sky Warn Net 7pm 146.97	16 Mosquito Net 7pm 28.333	17 Friendship Traders Net 7pm 146.97 Eating meeting 5pm	18	19
20	21	22 Club Meeting Elections	23 Mosquito Net 7pm 28.333	24 Friendship Traders Net 7pm 146.97 Eating Meeting 5pm	25	26
27	28	29 Sky Warn Net 7pm 146.97	30 Mosquito Net 7pm 28.333	Friendship Traders Net 7pm Eating Meeting 5pm		